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The Southern PATRIOT

Volume 2 | Nashville, Tennessee, July, 1944 | Number 7

TRENDS

Gov. Dewey was asked by Jack Tarver, the Atlanta Constitution's associate editor, if he would "clarify your position regarding the nation's freight rate structure."

"I am not ready to go into that at this time," Tarver quoted Dewey.

The same question addressed to Bricker elicited from his campaign manager the statement that after a conference with Bricker it was decided "best not to make any statement on anything controversial until after the convention."

* * *

Sen. Bankhead's amendment to the OPA extension act will cost consumers an estimated $150,000,000 in price increases on cotton goods.

Alabama and Tennessee "farmers' wives," said an editorial in the *Nashville Tennessean*, "may remember the Bankhead Amendment the next time they go shopping for a new cotton dress . . . farmers, themselves, may remember it, when they buy their new overalls and workshirts or the annual supply of cotton bags in which to pick the fall cotton crop."

* * *

In a poll of the audience at 140 high schools of North Carolina that held forums on post-war peace plans, 50% approved a super-world government; 20% a league of nations; 17% temporary treaties; 13% no preference.

* * *

A U. S. Court upheld an injunction restraining Montgomery Ward from selling goods above OPA ceiling prices. In their appeal from the injunction granted on Sept. 7, the company contended that the injunction should have been limited to the 2 items mentioned by OPA instead of covering everything sold by the company. In other words counsel contended that Mr. Avery should have the right to gyp the public on everything but women's and children's outer garments.

* * *

98.6% of government expenditures in this fiscal year will be used by the war, Navy, war shipping and lend-lease agencies. . .

'This Is Not Politics- This Is Treason'

Electoral College Plot Condemned

The threat of certain Democratic Electors in a few Southern states to disregard the mandate of the people in casting their electoral college votes was characterized as a "sneak attack upon the Democracy for which our boys are fighting and dying" in a statement issued by the Southern Conference for Human Welfare.

"Regardless of their attitude toward the present Administration," said the statement released by the President, Dr. Clark Foreman, "it is clearly the duty of all true Democrats to speak out now against this conspiracy to steal the 1944 election."

The complete statement follows:

"Today our armed forces together with those of our allies are invading Hitler's Europe. Throughout the world the United Nations are putting forth their supreme effort to hasten the destruction of the Axis enemies of Democracy. Every patriotic American, every patriotic Southerner, with a prayer for victory on his lips, is striving to fulfill his obligation to the loved ones who are fighting and dying, by working more than ever, giving more than ever, and cherishing ever more deeply the democratic institutions for the preservation of which this war is being fought.

To Circumvent The People's Will

"What, then, must be the thoughts of all Southern men and women of good will when they behold at this time a small group of Northern Republican Roosevelt-haters and Southern Renegade Democrats conspiring in the name of the South to subvert the keystone of our system of government-free elections. It is now well known that under the guise of protecting the South and with the aim of helping to assure a Republican victory in this year's crucial presidential elections, a sinister group has been organized in such states as Texas, South Carolina, Mississippi, Arkansas and Louisiana.

Blueprint For Fascism

"Afraid to present their case to the democratic judgment of the people in the primary and general elections, this group has devised the stratagem of seeking, through Roosevelt-hating political machines, to control the choice of presidential electors. They then threaten that unless certain demands are granted by the Democratic Party convention, the electors, regardless of the mandate of the voters in the given state, will cast their votes in the electoral college for someone other than the official Democratic nominee. In this way they expect to help the Republican Party prevent Franklin D. Roosevelt from receiving an electoral college majority—and, assuming the Republican nominee also fails of a majority, thus throwing the election into the House of Representatives. This sneak attack upon the Democracy for which our boys are fighting and dying is a challenge to every fair-minded Southerner. This is not politics—this is treason.

(Continued on Page 3.)

TRENDS

(Continued from Page 1.)

Progressives from all walks of life, authors, educators, editors, ministers, business men, representatives of minority groups, farm leaders, compose the new National Citizens Political Action Committee to work for the election of Roosevelt and for a progressive Congress, and to raise funds from individuals for this purpose. The committee has about 80 members but will be expanded. Officers are Sidney Hillman, chairman; R. J. Thomas, vice-president; and Clark Foreman, Secretary.

Sidney Hillman had some fun with the Scripps-Howard press, according to Johnnie Moutoux, Knoxville newspaper man now with PM's Washington bureau, in commenting on a Gallup poll allegedly showing that CIO support is a handicap to a candidate.

"I noticed in yesterday's World Telegram," said Hillman, "that on the first page it ran a statement by Mr. Gallup that we have no strength, while on the second page was a news story which said that we were responsible for Tobin's election in Massachusetts. Its editors and reporters ought to get together. . . We have made no claims as to our strength; that has been done by defeated candidates who were opposed to us."

The new committee, according to Mr. Hillman, will be non-partisan and pointed to the fact that the Political Action Committee has recently supported two Republicans, Welch of California and Morse of Oregon.

* * *

Christian America, part of the trappings of "Pappy" O'Daniel's fascist movement out of Texas, received a setback at the hands of Louisiana labor. Two anti-labor bills purportedly sponsored by C A were killed in committee due to a strenuous campaign by a united labor movement, AFL, CIO and Railway Brotherhoods. The bills imposed stringent financial regulations on unions and outlawed all forms of union security.

* * *

The Nashville Trades & Labor Council is backing Public Utilities Commissioner Leon Jourolmon, Jr., in a fight to compel the Southern Bell Telephone & Telegraph Company to reduce its intrastate telephone rates to a level of interstate rates. The company has agreed to reduce its rates by approximately $180,000 a year but not to the interstate level.

* * *

A movement to have the proceedings of Congress broadcast to the Nation is being sponsored by Building Service Employees International Union, Local 6, AFL, 1905½ 3rd Ave., Seattle Wash. New Zealand has demonstrated how effectively this device can be used. Further information may be had from Ward Coley, International Representative, at the above address.

The cultural programs of our larger labor unions are an important but little noticed part of the labor movement. The United Automobile Workers (UAW-CIO) for example maintains in the former Detroit home of Edsel Ford a well equipped institute for research in the field of industrial health.

As part of a summer program for its more than one million members, the educational department of the UAW conducted a series of seminars in various parts of the country, including one at the Highlander Folk School, Monteagle, Tennessee.

Students studied the orderly, democratic procedures of collective bargaining, public speaking and parliamentary law, how labor-management committees have improved production of war materiel, and participated in a program of dramatics and recreation.

In accordance with the democratic policies of the union, which has opposed all forms of discrimination on the job, the student bodies of these seminars included both white and Negro students.

* * *

The death rate from tuberculosis per 100,000 population in Virginia was 30.2 among the whites in 1943 compared to 34.9 in 1942; and 107.9 among the Negroes in 1943 as against 125.1 in 1942. The percentage of decrease was about the same for both races. "Common sense and community action are all that are needed to halt tuberculosis," declared Ellen H. Smith, president, Virginia Tuberculosis Association.

* * *

Of the 13,750,000 workers in private industry covered by union contracts, 75% are protected by some form of "union security." 30% have the "closed shop"; 19% the "union shop"; 22% "Maintenance of membership" clauses; and 3% "preferential hiring" provisions, according to the Department of Labor *Monthly Labor Review.*

* * *

The Board of Investigation and Research said May 26 "a readjustment of freight rates in relation to the cost of the service will encourage greater production of both raw materials and finished products in the South and West without injuring Eastern production and manufacturing. . . The commerce of the entire country, locally and interregionally, will be increased."

* * *

Erskine Caldwell, his father Dr. Ira Caldwell of Wrens, Ga., and an uncle, W. L. Maner of Allendale, S. C., have bought three country newspapers in S. C.

"At the rate we are going, it will take 85 years and the expenditure of $150,000,000 to bring Negro schools up to the standards of whites. And it will require $50,000,000 increased annual expenditure to keep them there," declared Dr. Charles H. Thompson, editor of the Journal of Negro Education and Dean of Howard University, before the Institute of Race Relations at Fisk University.

* * *

Florida's Christian America anti-labor law was smashed in a decision by the NLRB that a state statute regulating unions cannot relieve an employer of collective bargaining under the terms of the Wagner Act. The decision involved the Eppsinger & Russell Company of Jacksonville that had refused to bargain with the certified union because the union representatives had not been licensed as required by the state law.

* * *

Deserved recognition has come to the *Hawk's Cry*, published at the Tuskegee Army Air Field, Ala., awarded 2nd prize in the Mimeograph Class of a world-wide contest to determine the best camp newspaper in the army for 1944. First prize went to *The Drum*, published at Fort Niagara, N. Y.

* * *

Essential Christianity has held through all the ages that God is the Father of all, that all men are therefore brothers and must be so treated. In Jesus Christ, there cannot be discriminations based upon race.

"These Christian attitudes and convictions regarding race are gaining general acceptance:

"1. Science agrees. It says that the blood of all humanity is one; that the same types of blood are in all races. The brain of humanity is one. There are no permanently inferior or superior races. There are only more developed and less developed races.

"2. Democracy approves. Its basic principle is equality of opportunity for all. That 'all' must mean ALL or it means nothing.

3. "Common sense sanctions. It teaches us that color of skin, the slant of eye, or the shape of the head are absurd and precarious bases for claims to racial superiority.

"Can we as Christians make these convictions our own and move upon them where we live and work?"

—From an editorial in **The Kentucky Christian**, Lexington, Ky.

* * *

Concerning those "high wages". "In the year ended June 30 (1943), a restitution of nearly $17,000,000 in wages illegally withheld were agreed upon by employers or ordered paid by the Division to almost 360,000 employees in about 20,000 establishments," said L. Metcalfe Walling, Administrator of the Wage & Hour Division, at the annual meeting of the National Consumers League. "A fourth or more of our restitution cases today," he said, "still involve failure to pay the minimum wage of 30c to 40c an hour—failure to pay a weekly wage of only $12.00 to $16.00 for a 40-hour week."

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THE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE FOR HUMAN WELFARE

Officers

CLARK FOREMAN
President

ALVA W. TAYLOR
Secretary-Treasurer

JAMES A. DOMBROWSKI
Executive Secretary and Editor

(Continued from Page 1.)

"It is clearly the duty of all true Southern democrats, regardless of their attitude toward the present Administration, to speak out now against this conspiracy to steal the 1944 election. We must insist that all Democratic Electors publicly pledge to vote for the official Democratic nominee, if he carries their state. Those who fail to commit themselves should be replaced through appropriate legal and political means by Electors who do.

"Let the people decide—that is the way of democracy—the way of progress for the South and for all America."

★ ★ ★

Liberal Editors Of The South

It is just as inaccurate to judge the entire South by the standards of Rankin, Reynolds, McKellar and O'Daniel as it is to judge New York by Ham Fish.

The liberal South is for the most part "the silent South" which accounts for the fact that it is not so well known as the more vocative and noisy, reactionary South.

Among the encouraging signs of a rapidly growing liberal South is the rise of a fairly large number of liberal editors.

When one describes a number of persons as "liberal," "progressive" and "hopeful" it is first necessary to define our use of these terms. When it is the South that is being considered, it is even more necessary.

Henry Grady was considered a great, crusading, liberal editor in his day, but the end of his crusading was the rise of the Coca Cola aristocracy, segregation, sweatshops and the continued and increased bondage of the South to Northern capital.

Liberals and progressives, according to our use of the terms, are men who think in terms of all the people instead of a few. They are Democrats in the Jeffersonian but also in the Rooseveltian sense. They believe the South can solve its problems of poverty, race, ignorance, and dependence by positive action. They also think the same is true of world problems. While they may differ as to methods, and often do, they look forward instead of backward and have hope instead of despair.

Grover Hall

Before considering the liberal Southern Editors of today—it is necessary for one who knew him to pause and pay homage to the greatest of them all—Grover Hall of the *Montgomery Advertiser*. He expressed better than any Southern writer living or dead the warm love of people that is the great and continuing charm of the South. He was a sturdy fighter for civil liberties and by his fight in the Ku Klux Klan was the chief instrument in its destruction. He fought police brutality against the Negroes in the heart of the Deep South. His splendid editorial, the "Egregious Gentile," was the first and mightiest voice that was raised against anti-Semitism. He won the Pulitzer Prize both for his fight on the Klan and for the force and beauty of his writing. He wrote with fire and genius and with abundant and overflowing ease. His influence on the younger newspaper men of the South was immense and continuing. His spiritual descendants are many and scattered—perhaps the best known being Carroll Kilpatrick—formerly of the *Birmingham News*, now of the *Chicago Sun*, and Gould Beech, now in the Army. Both of these were Associate Editors of the *Advertiser*.

Alabama

After his death the *Advertiser* became reactionary and dull but the *Birmingham News* has in Jim Chappell an intelligent and progressive Editor that has collected around him a good group of writers. Ted Van De Veer—Judge Feidelson and perhaps out of courtesy we should add John Temple Graves. Except for Graves these men fight for the Roosevelt policies both on the home front and abroad. They have given encouragement in the face of hostility to the growing labor movement in Alabama. They are even against the Poll Tax—although not vigorously. They fought valiantly for Senator Lister Hill's re-election. John Temple Graves reflects the timid liberal attitude in the South. He recognizes the evils and problems that beset the South but maintains that to do anything more about them than than has been done will only make things worse. His continuing cry that "The New Deal is Dealt—let's stop now and don't stir things up any more"—has a basis of almost neurotic fear. I predict that he will in time become a mouthpiece for the conservatives of the South and the nation.

Harry Ayres of the *Anniston Star* is another Alabama Editor of whom the South can be proud, a man of keen mind and wide interests. His paper is a reflection of his views which are progressive and tolerant.

Tennessee

The heart of the fight against the Poll Tax in Tennessee and the nation lies in the editorial offices of the *Nashville Tennessean*. Jennings Perry is the fighting editor who has awakened Tennessee to the abuses of the Poll Tax system. He won the fight in Tennessee after a brilliant series of articles and editorials over a period of years which so aroused the people of Tennessee that they forced the State Legislature to repeal the Poll Tax, only to have Ed Crump's Supreme Court declare that the Legislature could put on a Poll Tax but it could not take it off. As head of the National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax he is carrying on his fight in the Congress of the United States. He is dynamic, intense and persistent and has made the *Nashville Tennessean* one of the best commercial papers in the South.

(To Be Continued.)

Persons vs. Property*

By Mark Ethridge

"This, then, is a year of major decisions. . .

"It is a choice of Commanders-in-Chief to carry on the war. . .

"Domestically, the choice is between the destruction of the New Deal, and the eradication of its emphasis, which is all the Republican Party has so far offered, and the preservation and implementation of the central idea of the New Deal, which is that the person is more important in a civilization than property. . .

"In the international field I believe the choice is between a good peace and a bad one.

"I have no shame in confessing that I am and have been, a New Dealer for years. . .

"Is any Democrat ashamed that we took a banking structure which had had 5,770 failures in the 4 years of Hoover, with a loss to the depositors and stockholders of more than $3,000,000,000, and restored confidence, virtually eliminated failures, insured losses?

3 Million Homes Saved

". . . that the H. O. L. C. has saved some 3,000,000 homes from foreclosure . . . that in the process of bailing out home owners, we rescued bank and trust companies, savings and loan associations, finance, mortgage and insurance companies?

". . . that through housing projects all over this country, we have taken people out of the squalor and filth of rat-infested slums?

Farms Electrified

". . . that through the stimulus of the R. E. A. twice as many farms have been electrified in the past 8 years than were electrified in the 50 years before that?

30 Million Acres Rescued

". . . that through soil-conservation measures we have rescued eroded, depleted, and abandoned land to the extent of more than 30,000,000 acres that are now in production in this war effort?

". . . that through the Farm Security Administration's efforts 950,000 small farmers have been led out of despair and back into useful, productive, and happy lives?

". . . That we have given encouragement to the reforestation of lands that had been denuded in the ruthless exploitation of timber barons? Or that a good deal of that reforestation work was done by C. C. C. boys we took off the blind baggage of railroad cars?

God's Valley

". . . that its (T. V. A.) influence has reduced electric power rates all over the country? That it has provided in this war 12,000,000,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity without which our war production could not have approached what it has been? . . . that its research department has opened up new means of livelihood for the 4,500,000 people of an area as big as Scotland and England? . . . that a once-desolated, flood-ravaged, poverty-stricken valley is now not only one of the greatest demonstration laboratories of the earth, but one of the happiest places in which to live?

Social Secur

". . . that we fed the poor and t
ple are drawing pensions . . . and
setting up more retirement funds?
ceive aid from the Government? .
labor laws, or minimum wage and m

Business Ha

"Do we have any apology for wha
In 1932 alone, 32,000 small business
was 40 billions of dollars; its emplo
that national income had risen to 7
small business failures were negligi
companies in 1939 had risen more
before. War, of course, has carried
but I have deliberately not used war
came, the country was over its Ha
ache.

Labor P

"Have we any apology for what w

"The strike picture has been e
labor. But it is not the strike pictu
emies of labor. It is that they canno
mental principle of the Wagner Act;
ganize for bargaining as capitalists
a business. When the Sewell Avery
Wiers learn that, this will be a happ

"Labor's advances have been blo
the opinion of this country. We hav
law. I do not want to see a few me
away, or restore to America the for
the late twenties.

New Deal F

"We certainly have no apology to
beneficiary of the Roosevelt adminis

"When Roosevelt took over, farm
years to $9,600,000,000; mortgage in
farm income. More than a million fa
Farm income had dropped from 12 b
Wheat was down from $1.30 a bushel

"Today, the gross cash farm inc
$20,000,000,000, or 400% more tha
again, I shall not take war figures.

**"In 1939, farm mortgage charges
rate on farm mortgages had gone
mortgage interest took 4.4% of the
under Hoover. Rehabilitation loans
rowers by 37%. Farm income had
The farmers income in relation to i
of the industrial workers, is at pari
at the depth of the depression. . .**

Security Benefits

and the unemployed? . . . that old peo-
and businesses and employees are jointly
nds? . . . that the crippled and blind re-
t? . . . that we have enlightened child
and maximum hours laws?

ss Has Prospered

or what we have done for, or to, business?
sinesses failed. The country's net income
employment 37,000,000. In 7 years after
to 70 billions, employment to 45 million;
egligible. . . Net profits of 2,480 index
more than $1,250,000,000 from the year
rried national income to $150,000,000,000,
d war-year figures. Long before the war
ts Harding-Coolidge-Hoover created head-

bor Protected

what we have done for labor? . . .
een exaggerated deliberately to discredit
picture which primarily irritates the en-
cannot reconcile themselves to the funda-
r Act; that labor has as much right to or-
alists have to pool their money to conduct
Averys, the Tom Girdlers, and the Ernest
happier country.

en bloodily won or grudgingly granted by
Ve have translated them into fundamental
w men in the Republican Party take them
ne form of industrial fascism we had until

Deal For Farmers

ogy to the farmer. He has been the chief
dministration.
r, farm mortgages had risen 300% in 20
gage interest took 11.4% of the total cash
lion farms had been lost by foreclosure. . .
m 12 billions in 1929 to 5 billions in 1932.
bushel to 53c; cotton from 17.9c to 5c.
rm income, because of the war is almost
e than in the darkest Hoover days, but
ures.
harges were 40% below 1928; the average
gone from 5½ to 6% to 3½ to 4% and
of the total cash income as against 11.4%
loans had increased the net worth of bor-
e had almost doubled from 1932 to 1937.
n to industrial income, to take-home pay
at parity where it was at 82% of parity
. . .

An Apostrophe and Tribute

"Is anybody inclined to count Mrs. Roosevelt a party liability? If so, I think Florida and Alabama have answered that. She was made a direct issue there in the nastiest sort of campaign based on race hatred that could have been devised. And those who made the issue got the rebuke they deserved; the rebuke they will get from people all over this country. There is nothing about Mrs. Roosevelt for which to apologize. She does deserve an apostrophe, it can be found in the Twenty-third Psalm: 'Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.'

Foreign Policy

"Are we ashamed that Mr. Hull worked unremittingly to tear down the tariff walls which surely must come down if the world is to live at peace?

"Are we ashamed that Mr. Roosevelt saw so far ahead of the rest of us; that he saw ahead what Hitler had in mind, what Japan had in mind and that from 1936 on he tried desperately to warn us to prepare while he was trying to stave off what became inevitable?

"Have we anything to apologize for, in the light of history, in the whole record of the Democratic Party in foreign affairs? For the fact that every major declaration, every major advocacy touching international cooperation for the maintenance of peace has been made by a Democratic President in this century? . . .

The Party of Isolation

"The Republican Party is isolationist at heart. It opposed this war until Pearl Harbor made opposition moot. It made no declaration as a Party equivalent to the Atlantic Charter or to Mr. Hull's outline of our foreign policy. . .

The Party of Big Business

"Domestically the Republican Party for most of its life has been the instrument of big business, the exponent of laissez-faire, the protector of the propertied. Internationally it has symbolized imperialism rather than the good-neighbor spirit, the spirit of mutual security. There is nothing in its present policy or in the roster of its candidates for the presidency to indicate that, having choked off its liberal movement, it is not again at the dead center of normalcy in domestic affairs and in an imperialistic mood internationally.

The Good Life For All

"We must know that the demand for an earned security—particularly for greater medical security in the rural areas—will not die out, but will swell in chorus until the Government does what the medical profession cannot do. We must know that the standards of health, housing, nutrition, and all the other things that make for a good life are not matters to be left lightly to free enterprise, but are matters of concern to all of us as a people who make a Government; as a people determined to use their Government as an agency to secure the welfare and enhance the happiness of all of us.

"A great decision is to be made this year. Both the mind and the heart will figure in it. Both of them argue for a Democratic victory."

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*Excerpts from an address before the Oklahoma Democratic State Convention, May 15, 1944.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

Fascism In The Americas

ARGENTINE DIARY. By RAY JOSEPHS.. Random House, New York. 358 pp., $3.00.

FACTS AND FASCISM. By GEORGE SELDES. In Fact, Inc., 25 Astor Place, New York City. 288 pp., $1.50.

These two books supplement each other. The Argentina book is a day by day record of the coming of fascism in one of the South American countries, written by a reporter who witnessed these events. Especially disconcerting is the author's account of the part played by our own state department in making it possible for a fascist government to become entrenched on our doorstep.

Mr. Seldes' book exposes the role of big business, chiefly heavy industry, in the coming to power of Hitler, Mussolini, and Franco. But what is more important and rare is the well documented account of the counterpart in the United States of these cartels and big business combines that finance the fascist movements in our own country. Here are two books that deserve a place in the kit of every anti-fascist.

• • •

Toward Ethnic Democracy

BROWN AMERICANS; THE STORY OF A TENTH OF THE NATION. By EDWIN K. EMBREE. Viking Press, New York. 248 pp., $2.75.

13 AGAINST THE ODDS. By EDWIN K. EMBREE. Viking Press. 261 pp., $2.75.

Liberals concerned with the welfare of the Negro who caution us against a too rapid advance, the "evolutionists" who George Cable described as praying that our steps may not be so much "logical" as "geological," should ponder this situation that existed 150 years ago:

> "There was little bitterness between the races anywhere throughout the nation which had just gained its independence, and which was still bubbling with talk of freedom and the rights of man. Education and opportunity were being offered almost without discrimination. John Chavis, a full-blooded Negro, after graduation from Princeton, returned to North Carolina and conducted a private school for white students which included among its pupils two sons of the chief justice of the state and a boy who later became governor of North Carolina." (*Brown Americans*, p. 53)

I wish it were possible for everyone in public life, ministers, educators public officials, labor leaders, club officers, editors, professional people, to read these two books; the first book for the compact factual information about the Negro, the second for the wealth of human material about 13 representatives of the Negro race that have made notable contributions to the life and culture of our nation.

• • •

The Confederacy's Common Man

THE PLAIN PEOPLE OF THE CONFEDERACY. By BELL IRVIN WILEY. Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge. 104 pp., $1.50.

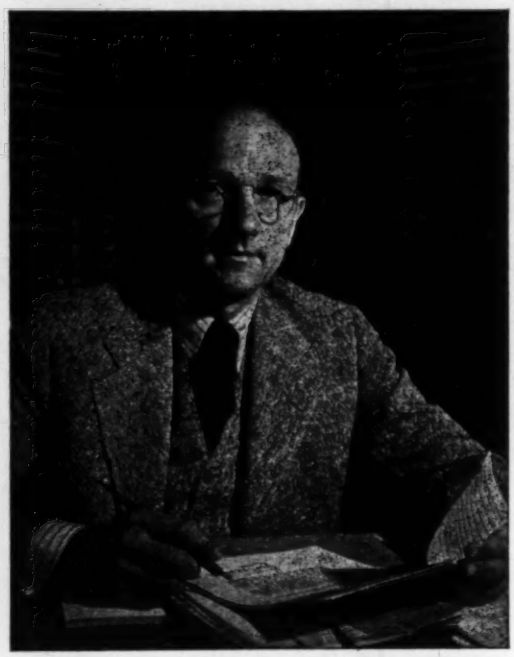
Johnny Reb had no economic interest in the South's "peculiar institution" of slavery that he fought to preserve. The great majority of the Confederacy's fighting men came from non-slave-owning families. The Southerner living in the big white house, if he owned 20 or more slaves (later, I believe, reduced to 10) was exempt from the draft. From wartime letters, muster rolls county records and other first-hand sources the author has given us a picture of the plain people of the Confederacy that has many points of contemporary interest. For example, instead of the beneficent system of price control and rationing which we now enjoy and which makes it possible to stretch the allotment check as far as possible, the homebuilder of the Confederacy was faced with inflation, hoarding, and a "speculation mania" producing untold suffering and hardship.

The welcome given to the Federals by the slaves revealed to the Southern whites how little they really knew what was going on in the mind and heart of the laughing, obsequious Negro slave. "A people," writes the author, "who boast today that they 'know the nigger' (sic) might well learn a lesson from the experience of their Confederate progenitors."

The South's Greatest Enterprise

TVA: DEMOCRACY ON THE MARCH. By DAVID E. LILIENTHAL. Harper & Bros., New York. 248 pp., $2.50.

We agree with Henry Wallace that this is the most interesting and exciting book of many years. It tell of one of the greatest enterprises ever set on foot for the welfare of the common man.



DAVID E. LILIENTHAL

Mr. Lilienthal tells the story of 30,000,000 cubic yards of earth and rock removed from river bottoms just to prepare the foundations for the dams, now nearing a score, and the pouring of concrete for them that exceeded that for the Panama Canal, twelve times the bulk of the great pyramids of Egypt and ten times that of the Grand Coulee, the largest structure ever reared by the hand of man. They harnessed a great river to produce almost one-half as much energy as did all the electric power systems of the nation in World War One; and 85 per cent of it goes into production to arm our forces in World War Two.

The story of what is being done for the 4,500,000 people of the Tennessee Valley is thrilling, but the author devotes less of his book to it than he does to the blue print of things that lie beyond cheap electric power, flood control and water transportation. He talk about the "Seamless Web" of land, water and men, the unity of all things that, while material at base may become spiritual and promote both democracy and human welfare in many ways.—ALVA W. TAYLOR.

Pepper Committee Investigates Southern Shipbuilding Community

It is clearly evident now that the present war, from its very beginning, presents problems not experienced in World War I. This is a war which presents unprecedented problems of supply, of amphibious and air warfare. This is a war which depends on men, women and children behind the lines, as much as it does on the men who fly and drive the engines produced on the home front. In its post-war implications, this war is much different than the last. This holds particularly true for the South.

Material Resources Conserved

In this war we have been faced with the necessity for total effort. Our material resources are carefully rationed down to the last nut and bolt. We conserve our tires, we salvage paper and save waste kitchen fats. We allocate and grant priorities for the manufacture of each item of military and civilian goods. Every effort is made to preserve our stock piles of metals, chemicals, foods and clothing—our resources of any and every kind.

We have learned to value our properties, for we know that they are the sinews of war. There has been, however, no such concern for our human resources—the heart of our war effort. There has been precious little consideration of the men and women who supply the recruits for our armies, who make the tanks and the planes, who grow the food and who are more the nation itself than the stockpiles and the goods of war.

Senate Committee Authorized

Accordingly, the Senate by resolution directed that "Whereas, the physical and mental fitness of the Nation has a direct bearing upon the efficiency of both the armed forces and civilan efforts in the effective prosecution of the war," that a Subcommittee on Wartime Health and Education be established, and "be authorized and directed to make a full and complete study and investigation . . . regarding the distribution and utilization of medical personnel, facilities, and related services."

In examining the question of our human resources, the Committee sought to examine a typical war community with the object of charting a course of action.

It is most significant that the Committee chose Pascagoula, Mississippi, as the subject of its first field investigation. Pascagoula is deep South. Before the war it was a placid fishing and resort town of 6,000. In a short time it became a booming ship-building center with five times its former population. Even before the war the deep South was poverty-stricken in its human resources. Infant mortality rates were highest, housing and sanitation facilities existed on the lowest national level. Educational facilities were poor. The war magnified these problems many times over.

Add to this picture, the 25,000 men, women and children, many from depressed rural areas, with no experience in the industrial community, others many miles from their original homes. A community with facilities for 6,000 could not be expected to accomodate 25,000 in an over-night transformation. Unaided the community could not be expected suddenly to overcome the burden on its facilities. It was plainly evident that in this national war emergency Federal aid would have to be extended.

Federal Aid Needed

The transcript of the Committee's Pascagoula hearing has recently been issued. It describes the effort by local groups to solve some of the community problems and examines the aid given by Federal agencies. Many instances of local initiative and cooperation were found. On the whole, however, local inability to cope with the situation was demonstrated. On the other hand, Federal aid was sometimes "too little and too late." In some cases a divergence of immediate interests between the three major groups—the permanent residents, the war-workers, and the shipbuilding company—limited further the effectiveness of Federal aid that was given.

As always, faulty planning and long-standing deficiencies in public services and facilities were shown to be at the root of many of the community evils.

A Significant Document

All in all, the Committee's transcript of the Pascagoula hearing is one of the most inclusive and significant documents pertaining to the war effort on the home front. It should be of particular interest to those interested in the war and post-war problems of the South. Out of the testimony presented at the hearing should come recommendations designed to improve and strengthen both the physical condition and working potential of the people now engaged in production of vital war products.

Local Chapters Of SCFHW Organized

Two local units of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare have been organized in meetings at Nashville and Birmingham attended by leaders of church, civic and labor groups.

Temporary officers of the Nashville Chapter are chairman, Dr. Alva W. Taylor of the Southern Mountain Workers Conference; and secretary, Miss Noreen Dunn, of Scarritt College.

It was voted to make the initial project a grading of the candidates from Davidson County to the state legislature based on written answers to about 20 questions concerning social legislation, such as the poll tax, permanent registration, teacher retirement plan, reforestation, compensation for occupational diseases, child labor, the protection of labor's right to organize and bargain collectively, etc.

Temporary officers of the Alabama Chapter are the Rev. Daniel C. Whitsett, Pastor of St. Mark's Methodist Church, Montgomery, chairman; and Mrs. Pauline Dobbs, Birmingham, secretary.

Anti-Poll Tax Plank Urged By SCFHW

The Democratic Party was urged by the Southern Conference for Human Welfare to adopt an anti-poll tax plank in the Party platform pledging it to "free the Southern people from the abomination of the poll tax."

A telegram to Hon. John McCormack, chairman of the platform committee, signed by Dr. Clark Foreman, president of the Southern Conference, said:

"The Southern people receive the lowest per capita income, have the most eroded land, have the most children to educate, and suffer the most physical ills. The poll tax is the major obstacle that prevents our people from helping themselves in the traditional American way, by recourse to the ballot box.

"We speak for these poor and silent millions who have no way of appealing to you directly—and ask you to make our American ideal a reality by giving us that most precious right of American citizenship, a free and unfettered ballot."

We salute North Carolina for being the first Southern state to equalize white and Negro teachers' salaries without court action. Much of the credit for this state's progressive policies in the field of Negro education must be given to Dr. N. C. Newbold.